

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

In the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for heat treatment of tissue specimens, comprising a pressure cooker (1) for cooking of the tissue specimens, a temperature sensor (5) and a pressure sensor (6) connected to the pressure cooker, and a control unit (15) for time-controlled heat treatment of the tissue specimens in the pressure cooker (1), the control unit (15) being arranged to control a programmed step-by-step heating course, with a programmed time duration on each temperature step, from a chosen start temperature up to a chosen maximum temperature, wherein it comprises a vent valve (8) coupled to the pressure cooker (1), and that the control unit (15) also is arranged to control a programmed step-by-step cooling course, from the chosen maximum temperature down to a chosen final temperature, wherein each step of the step-by-step heating course, or each step of the step-by-step cooling course does not require any user input or interaction.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control unit (15) comprises a processor unit which controls the relevant temperature courses by means of a data program.

3. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein it comprises a vacuum pump (11) which is connected to the pressure cooker (1) via an electric valve (10), to reduce the pressure in the pressure cooker to a desired value.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pressure cooker (1) and the control unit (15) are integrated in a treatment apparatus (20), the treatment apparatus operable to perform dewaxing of tissue specimens on microscope slides before the heat treatment in the pressure cooker.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the treatment apparatus (20) comprises a hot plate (23) for heating of the pressure cooker (1) with the tissue specimens, a revolving unit (25) arranged under the hot plate and comprising a rotatable plate (26) supporting an annular arrangement of vessels (28) for receiving baskets (29) with microscope slides and a loading magazine (30) for baskets, a driving motor for controlled step-by-step rotation of the revolving unit (25), and a hoist device (40) for lifting and lowering of the baskets which are to be transferred from the loading magazine (30) to the individual vessels (28) and from vessel to vessel.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein it includes a heating stove (55) for heating of baskets (29) in the loading magazine (30).

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein it comprises a vacuum pump (11) which is connected to the pressure cooker (1) via an electric valve (10), to reduce the pressure in the pressure cooker to a desired value.

8. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the pressure cooker (1)

and the control unit (15) are integrated in a treatment apparatus (20), the treatment apparatus operable to perform dewaxing of tissue specimens on microscope slides before the heat treatment in the pressure cooker.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the pressure cooker (1) and the control unit (15) are integrated in a treatment apparatus (20), the treatment apparatus operable to perform dewaxing of tissue specimens on microscope slides before the heat treatment in the pressure cooker.